

## Abstract

4 A piezoelectric element with a multilayer structure of piezoelectric plies (2; 20)  
5 having electrodes (6, 7; 21, 22) arranged between them is proposed that is  
6 provided with a lateral contacting of the electrodes (6, 7; 21, 22) in alternate  
7 directions via external electrodes (9, 10). The individual piezoelectric plies (4) are  
8 composed of a continuous film (2; 20) that can be folded during manufacture,  
9 that are entirely or partially provided with the electrically conductive electrodes (6,  
10 7; 21, 22). The piezoelectric plies (2; 20) are formed by folding at notches (5, 5.1,  
11 5.2) created at specified intervals transverse to the direction of folding, wherein  
12 the internal electrodes (6, 7; 21, 22) are formed by the metallized layers lying on  
13 the inside of the notches (5, 5.1, 5.2) after the folding.

15 (Figure 1)